



# CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS



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# CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS

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## SUMMARY OF ENROLLMENT TRENDS IN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 1932-33 to 1941-42

WALTER E. MORGAN, Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, and  
Chief, Division of Research and Statistics

The accompanying tables present the state enrollment in each grade and in special classes of each grade level for each school year of the period 1932-33 to 1941-42; and a comparative statement of increases and decreases by grade level for the last two years of the period. A study of the detailed data by school grade or by school level of special class, and by school year indicates several rather definite trends and changes in trends which may be ascribed to particular factors or causes.

Analysis of the state enrollment in kindergartens indicates a marked decrease in 1933-34 resulting from legislation increasing the minimum age of admission to kindergarten from four years to four and one-half years. Declining birth rates in the period just before 1934 prevented any marked increase in kindergarten enrollments until 1939-40. Minor increases in the annual birth rate in California between 1934 and 1936 and very marked increases from that year forward have resulted in comparatively major increases in the state enrollment in kindergartens, beginning in 1939-40. Some of the increases noted between 1938 and 1942 may be due at least in part to total population increases resulting from the location of defense and war industries in California.

In the first eight grades the first effect of increased birth rates was reflected in increased state enrollment beginning in 1940-41. It is probable that the increases noted in 1940-41 and 1941-42 will continue for some years to come. The declining enrollments in the first eight grades of the elementary schools of California between 1931 and 1936 were unquestionably due in most part to the declining birth rate in the state. The increases in elementary school enrollment beginning in 1936-37 were caused by two primary factors. The first of these was the influx of population from the Dust Bowl and other impoverished areas, principally those of the Midwestern and Southeastern portions of the United States. Immigration from these regions caused a considerable increase in state enrollment in 1936-37 and 1937-38 in the elementary schools. The slight decreases of the succeeding three years were, no doubt, caused by a readjustment of population involving the return to their home states or migration to other states—particularly the North Pacific Coast states—of considerable numbers of those who had come to California during the preceding two years. The major increase in 1941-42 was also caused by two primary factors. The first of these probably was the initial effect

## TOTAL STATE ENROLLMENT BY GRADE LEVEL, 1940-41 AND 1941-42

GRADE LEVEL	STATE ENROLLMENT		INCREASE		DECREASE	
	1940-41	1941-42	AMOUNT	PER CENT	AMOUNT	PER CENT
Kindergarten .....	70,596	75,887	5,291	7.5	-----	-----
Grades 1-8 .....	767,867	790,282	22,415	2.9	-----	-----
Grades 9-12 .....	362,534	359,681	-----	-----	2,853	0.8
Grades 13 and 14 .....	44,059	42,467	-----	-----	1,592	3.6
Special students and special classes:						
Elementary grade .....	8,524	7,928	-----	-----	596	7.0
High school grade .....	603,581	873,149	269,568	44.7	-----	-----
Junior college grade .....	62,326	98,701	36,375	58.4	-----	-----
Totals .....	1,919,487	2,248,095	333,649	-----	5,041	-----
Net increase .....	-----	-----	328,608	17.1	-----	-----

of the increasing birth rates beginning in 1934 but not becoming very marked until 1936. The second of these factors was the establishment of the war production plants in California, bringing into the state a new wave of migration which undoubtedly, together with the cumulative effects of the increased birth rates, will result in more marked increases in the state enrollment in both the kindergartens and the elementary grades in 1942-43 and in subsequent years.

It will be noted that state enrollment in the four years of the regular high school course continued to increase each year during the entire period until 1941-42, when a slight decrease was noted. This continuous increase may be ascribed to the continuous increase in the total state population and also to the fact that neither the declining birth rates which were so marked in California until 1934, nor the increased birth rates from 1934 to the present, has had any material effect on the high school population, while during this period the holding power of the secondary schools has increased. It is probable that the declining birth rates would have resulted in some minor decrease in high school population beginning about 1935, or during the school year 1935-36, had it not been for the fact that this was the first year of the period of marked immigration of families seeking employment in California. Consequently, the anticipated reduction in state enrollment in high school grades between 1936-37 and the present has been offset by the increased total state population resulting from immigration and the trend toward increased high school population continued unbroken until 1941-42.

## STATE ENROLLMENTS IN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 1932-33 TO 1941-42

GRADE OR LEVEL	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42
Kindergarten.....	74,447	64,910	63,925	64,669	63,631	65,110	64,474	67,560	70,596	75,887
Grade 1.....	121,179	117,270	113,207	112,333	117,920	117,203	112,116	109,450	113,351	118,541
Grade 2.....	98,496	92,625	91,025	89,180	90,564	95,209	93,702	92,982	93,474	99,410
Grade 3.....	95,777	96,111	91,840	90,615	92,704	91,734	92,749	92,964	93,438	95,737
Grade 4.....	94,365	94,965	95,073	92,288	93,455	93,789	90,934	92,702	93,755	95,628
Grade 5.....	92,773	92,773	93,962	95,971	95,075	94,073	92,053	90,924	93,618	95,637
Grade 6.....	91,081	90,205	90,511	92,435	97,371	95,454	91,184	91,527	95,226	95,226
Grade 7.....	86,113	90,866	90,277	91,882	95,964	96,392	96,392	94,206	93,785	95,031
Grade 8.....	80,121	84,789	89,551	90,270	93,015	95,236	97,914	95,588	94,919	95,072
Totals, 1-8.....	759,905	759,618	755,446	754,974	776,068	782,542	767,835	760,000	767,867	790,282
Grade 9.....	82,894	80,809	85,784	90,822	93,102	96,590	97,868	100,898	99,949	99,737
Grade 10.....	76,329	78,448	82,503	82,503	87,906	90,278	94,139	96,315	99,270	96,453
Grade 11.....	62,299	64,070	66,962	67,738	73,878	79,800	83,130	86,282	87,583	88,838
Grade 12.....	51,159	52,980	54,790	57,390	58,410	64,874	70,910	73,605	75,732	74,653
Totals, 9-12.....	272,681	276,307	284,211	298,453	313,296	331,542	346,047	357,100	362,534	359,681
Grade 13.....	17,121	16,858	17,357	19,572	20,073	21,820	25,903	27,783	27,457	27,841
Grade 14.....	8,896	9,041	9,478	9,761	10,182	10,050	12,474	15,248	16,602	14,626
Totals, 13 and 14.....	26,017	25,899	26,835	29,333	30,255	31,870	38,377	43,031	44,059	42,467
Totals, 1-12.....	1,032,586	1,035,925	1,039,657	1,053,427	1,089,364	1,114,084	1,113,882	1,117,100	1,130,401	1,149,963
Totals, Kindergarten-14.....	1,133,050	1,126,734	1,130,417	1,147,429	1,183,250	1,211,064	1,216,733	1,227,691	1,245,056	1,268,317
Special students and special classes										
Elementary grade.....	10,119	10,034	9,892	11,037	7,220	8,497	9,016	8,464	8,524	7,928
High school grade.....	223,908	254,643	296,339	310,896	325,925	386,377	448,742	497,396	603,581	873,149
Junior college grade.....	7,498	9,154	8,684	12,633	13,608	20,358	30,136	40,518	62,326	98,701
Totals.....	241,525	273,831	314,915	334,566	346,753	415,232	487,894	546,378	674,431	979,778
Total State Enrollment										
Kindergarten.....	74,447	64,910	63,925	64,669	63,631	65,110	64,474	67,560	70,596	75,887
Elementary grade.....	770,024	769,652	765,338	766,011	783,288	791,039	776,861	768,464	776,391	798,210
High school grade.....	496,589	530,950	580,550	609,349	639,221	717,919	794,789	854,496	966,115	1,232,830
Junior college grade.....	33,515	35,053	35,519	41,966	43,863	52,228	68,513	83,549	106,385	141,168
Totals.....	1,374,575	1,400,565	1,445,332	1,481,995	1,530,003	1,626,296	1,704,627	1,774,069	1,919,487	2,248,095

The reduction in state enrollment in the regular grades of California high schools in 1941-42 is probably due entirely to withdrawals from high school, primarily of boys, for employment in the defense or war production industries or for enrollment in special classes which were established to provide training for such employment. The effects of the induction of youths into the armed forces by selective service probably will result in a further decrease of very considerable proportions in the state enrollment in high school grades during 1942-43.

The trend in state enrollment in the thirteenth and fourteenth grades in junior colleges has been consistently upward during the entire period, with the exception of the school year 1933-34 and the last year of the period, 1941-42. The minor decrease in 1933-34 in the state enrollment in junior colleges was probably due to withdrawal of junior college students for employment during the first portion of the post-depression period. Increases thereafter were minor until 1938-39, when there was a general increase in state enrollment in most of the junior colleges of the state, probably as a result of the general upward trend in economic conditions of the country due to the industrial expansion initiated by the lend-lease program for furnishing war materials to the friendly European nations. Continued increases in the state enrollment in grades thirteen and fourteen during 1939-40 and 1940-41 were probably due both to the increased economic advantages of posthigh school education, particularly for persons training for employment in the defense and war production industries, and to general population increases resulting from migration into California of families seeking employment in such industries. The decrease in junior college state enrollment in 1941-42 probably represents the first effect of the induction of youths into the armed forces, a condition which unquestionably will much more seriously deplete the junior college population in 1942-43 and thereafter.

As noted in previous articles summarizing state enrollment trends in California public schools, the most extraordinary increase in state enrollment in the California public schools has been that in the special day and evening classes and evening schools of high school and junior college grade. State enrollment in special classes of high school grade has increased from 223,908 in 1932-33 to 873,149 in 1941-42, while state enrollment in special classes of junior college grade has increased from 7,498 to 98,701 in the same period. The state enrollment in special classes of high school grade has increased at a rate varying from 4.8 per cent between 1935-36 and 1936-37 to 44.7 per cent between 1940-41 and 1941-42. During the same period state enrollment in special classes of junior college grade has increased at a rate varying from 22.1 per cent between 1932-33 and 1933-34, to 58.4 per cent between 1940-41 and

1941-42. It is to be noted that state enrollment in special classes of junior college grade increased each year during this entire period, except for the slight reduction between 1933-34 and 1934-35.

These increases in the state enrollment in special classes of secondary grade are due to many factors, chief among which are the increasing desire on the part of the general public for further formal education, increased recognition of the need for specialized vocational training, and, during the latter years of the decade, the tremendous new program of vocational training for the training of workers for defense and war production plants.

The most unusual increase, that which has been experienced in the special classes of junior college grade, has been caused by certain additional factors. Of these, probably the most influential has been the trend toward transfer of adult classes from the administration of the high school to that of the junior college. This trend began in 1937-38 and has continued. Much of the highly technical portion of the program of vocational training for war production workers has been allocated to the junior colleges rather than to the high schools. Similarly, the civil aeronautics training program, and, more recently, the programs for the training of military personnel, have been allocated primarily to the junior colleges.

It is quite obvious that state enrollment in regular classes of high school and junior college grade will continue to decline at a rather marked rate. It is much more difficult to anticipate the future trend in state enrollment in the special classes of secondary grade. It would seem to be almost impossible for the present trend in the special classes of secondary grade to continue beyond 1941-42. However, it is possible that any actual decline in enrollments in these classes may not become effective until the school year 1943-44, because of the recent expansion of the program for the training of women for employment in the war production industries. Undoubtedly, however, beginning either in 1942-43 or in 1943-44 it should be expected that there will be a marked decrease in the state enrollment in these classes.



## **DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS**

### **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

WALTER F. DEXTER, Superintendent

#### **RESIGNATION OF THE CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Aubrey A. Douglass, Chief of the Division of Secondary Education and Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, has resigned from the State Department of Education, effective July 1, 1943, to become city superintendent of schools at Modesto. Dr. Douglass has been with the State Department of Education since September 1, 1935, when he succeeded Walter R. Hepner as Chief of the Division of Secondary Education. He came to the Department from Claremont Colleges where he had been head of the Department of Education. Frank B. Lindsay, Assistant Chief, will act as Chief of the Division after Dr. Douglass' departure.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FROM TEACHERS AND PARENTS FOR SUMMER GASOLINE RATIONING**

An urgent appeal is made herewith to all public school teachers and other employees, and to members of all local Parent-Teacher Associations who participated in one or more of the previous gasoline or food rationing programs in the public schools, to volunteer any available time to assist local ration boards in the registration and rationing program for renewal of basic "A" gasoline ration books during the summer. Without the assistance of thousands of volunteer workers the entire program may be jeopardized since the local ration board personnel cannot handle the vast amount of work unassisted.

Those who are willing to volunteer their time and services are urged to report to the ration board nearest to the place of their residence during the summer. They should report as soon as possible, but not later than July 10, so that their schedule of work can be worked out in advance. The period during which volunteer workers will be most greatly in demand will be from July 15 to July 22. If possible, therefore, volunteers should plan to be available at least for that full period.

The efficiency of the patriotic work done by teachers, parents and other volunteers in previous rationing programs in the schools guarantees that if they will again volunteer for this program, the local ration boards may feel confident that the public will be as smoothly and as efficiently served in this program as on previous occasions when ration books were handled through the schools and the personnel thus assembled.



## DIVISION OF TEXTBOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

IVAN R. WATERMAN, Chief

### NEW PUBLICATION

*Laws of 1943 Relating to the California Public School System.* Bulletin of the California State Department of Education, Vol. XII, No. 5, July, 1943.

All legislation affecting public education in the state which was enacted by the California Legislature during the 1943 session has been compiled in this publication. The compilation was prepared by Alfred E. Lentz, Administrative Adviser, and published by the Department. It contains changes made in the various codes and the general laws, particularly changes in the Education Code, adopted by the 1943 Legislature to supersede the School Code on August 4, 1943, as well as emergency measures effective immediately when they were signed by the Governor and incorporated in the School Code for the period that it remains in effect.

Copies of the bulletin will be sent to school administrators throughout the state. Additional copies may be obtained from the Division of Textbooks and Publications.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION\_\_\_\_\_

### **PAMPHLET ON POSTWAR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROBLEMS**

A survey of problems expected to arise in connection with vocational education after the war is made in a pamphlet, *Vocational Training Problems When the War Ends*, just issued by the United States Office of Education. The author is J. C. Wright, Assistant Commissioner of Vocational Education.

Illustrated with charts and tables, the pamphlet describes the general pattern of vocational dislocation expected after the war and deals with specific problems.

Copies may be obtained for 10 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C.

### **COMMUNITY LIFE PAMPHLET ANNOUNCED BY COMMISSION ON TEACHER EDUCATION**

The emerging concept of community understanding, its elements, and implications in the education of teachers, is developed in a pamphlet, *Toward Community Understanding*, now available. The material stresses the complex human relations involved in co-operative programs entered into by schools and communities.

Requests for this publication should be sent to Helen E. Davis, Commission on Teacher Education, 744 Jackson Place, Washington (16) D.C.

### **DIRECTORY OF SCHOOL AND COLLEGE PERSONNEL IN THE UNITED STATES AVAILABLE**

The 1942-43 edition of the *Educational Directory* published annually by the United States Office of Education is now available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. The *Directory* is issued in four sections:

- Part I. State and County School Officers. Price 10 cents each.
- Part II. City School Officers. Price 10 cents each.
- Part III. City School Officers. Price 10 cents each.
- Part IV. Educational Associations and Directories. Price 10 cents each.

The *Directory* will not be issued in bound form this year but in separate parts only.

## PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE

### CURRENT PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

BARUCH, DOROTHY WALTER. *You, Your Children, and War*. New York: D. Appleton-Century Co., Inc., 1942.

BERNARD, JESSIE. *American Family Behavior*. Harper & Bros., 1942.

*Educational Directory, 1942-43: State and County School Officers*. Washington: Federal Security Agency, United States Office of Education, 1943.

HILL, FRANK ERNEST. *Tune in for Education: Eleven Years of Education by Radio*. New York: National Committee on Education by Radio, 1942.

*Inter-American Co-operation Through College and Universities*. Education and National Defense Series Pamphlet No. 14. Washington: Federal Security Agency, United States Office of Education, 1943.

*The Nation's Schools After a Year of War*. National Education Association Research Bulletin, Vol. XXI, No. 2, April, 1943. Washington: National Education Association of the United States.

"Proceedings of Special Meeting in Lieu of Seventh Annual Convention," California Association of Business Officials, Fresno, March 18-19, 1943. Los Angeles: California Association of Business Officials (Martin P. Havikon, President, Los Angeles City Schools), April 22, 1943 (mimeographed).

WASHBURN, CARLETON. *Louisiana Looks at the Schools: A Summary Report of the Louisiana Educational Survey*. Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Louisiana Educational Survey Commission, 1942.

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